

### **Ballad of Richard I – 'Ja nus hons pris"**

Ja nus hons pris ne dira sa raison  
adroitement, se dolantement non;  
mes par confort puet il fere chancon.  
moult ai amis, mes povre sont li don;

honte en avront, se por ma reancon  
sui ces deus yvers pris.

Ce sevent bien mi honme et mi baron,  
Englois, Normant, Poitevin et Gascon,  
que je n'avoie si povre compaignon,  
cui je laissasse por avoir en prixon.

Je nei di pas por nule retracon,  
mes encor sui ge pris.

#### **Phonetically**

Ja noose en prix ne dee-ra sa ray-son  
adwert-a-mon, se do-lan-te-mon non;  
May par efour pway il fair-er shan-son,  
Moot a a-me, may pov-ra son le don;  
Haunt e a-vron se pour ma ray-an-son  
Swee ca deuce e-vers prix.

Se seven byen me hom et me baron,  
Ang-lais, Nor-man, Pwet-e-von, eh Gas-con,  
Kay je nya, nool se pov-ra com-payn-on  
Kay je le-sas, pour avway on prizon;  
Je nou de my pour newla ret-ra-son,  
Mays en-core swi je prix.

#### **English translation:**

No prisoner ever tells his story objectively;  
rather, it is cloaked in sorrow.  
To comfort himself, however, he may write a song:

I have many friends, but their gifts are few.  
Dishonor will be theirs if I remain in prison these two winters;

my ransom unpaid. My men and my barons,  
from England, Normandy, Poitou, and Gascony,  
know that I would never forsake even the least of my friends.  
I do no say this as a reproach. Still... I remain a prisoner.